

FACT SHEET ON DELANO STRIKE

*Two organizations of farm workers in the Delano, California area, the independent National Farm Workers Association and the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee (AFL-CIO) have been on strike in the grape fields since September, 1965.

*DEMANDS are \$1.40 an hour minimum wage and union recognition.

*THE LEADERS of the NFWA are Cesar Chavez, General Director; Gilbert Padilla and Dolores Huerta, Vice-Presidents; of the AWOC - Al Green and Larry Itliong.

*35 GRAPE GROWERS have been struck, including the Schenley Ranch, one of the largest in the area. All have refused to negotiate.

*A NATIONAL BOYCOTT of Schenley products has been called by the NFWA. Full-time organizers have been sent to 20 major cities around the country to organize the Schenley boycott.

*SCABS from as far away as Texas and Mexico have been imported at great expense by the growers to break the strike.

*WALTER REUTHER AND STEVE ALLEN are among the national figures to have thrown their public support behind the strike. Both have come to Delano and participated in the strike.

*HARRASSMENT BY GROWERS AND POLICE has been common. Strikers have been beaten, shot at, and run off the road by growers. Police have ignored many complaints by strikers, and have arrested them on petty charges and false complaints.

*GOVERNOR PAT BROWN, notably silent on this crucial issue in an election year, has refused to talk with strike leaders or call for negotiations between strikers and growers.

REPUBLICAN GEORGE CHRISTOPHER, a major possible opponent of Brown in the fall elections, on the other hand, has publically called for negotiations between growers and the striking unions. He has said that he would try to settle the strike.

*THE STRIKE WILL CONTINUE through the next harvest season, if it is not settled before then. Agricultural strikes in past years have lasted from a few months up to several years.

*WIDE SUPPORT from civil rights and church organizations has made this a much different strike from those in the past. Active in strike action have been the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), the Migrant Ministry of the National Council of Churches, and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), and the California Center for Community Development (CCCD).